



Matt Shaw

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Matt Shaw

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

SUBJECT: English

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 3 years

Q. What are some of the skills students in your class are expected to learn?

A. I expect students to learn basic literary terms and ideas related to short stories, fiction and drama. They will also increase their abilities in essay writing and how they explain themselves in writing.

Q. Why did you use art supplies on this recent assignment?

A. The students made symbolic representations of themselves to help us get talking about symbolism in literature. The students then went around to interpret each other's work.

Q. Why do you have students reflect on their classmates' work?

A. It's interesting to get inside what another student is thinking. So often, they are only dealing with their personal views. It's especially important on this assignment since we're trying to get them to interpret symbols in literature and life.

Q. Why do you challenge students to get to know each other?

A. Often, students will just move around in their own groups, so I find ways to connect them to students they may not know very well. We have a diverse school and we need to encourage the kids to embrace the diversity.

Q. How do you make a classic like Romeo & Juliet appeal to today's students?

A. The themes in the masterpiece Romeo and Juliet clearly apply to today's teenagers. We have young love and dealing with parents. There are rivalries between groups. Our students deal with all of these issues in and outside of school.

Over



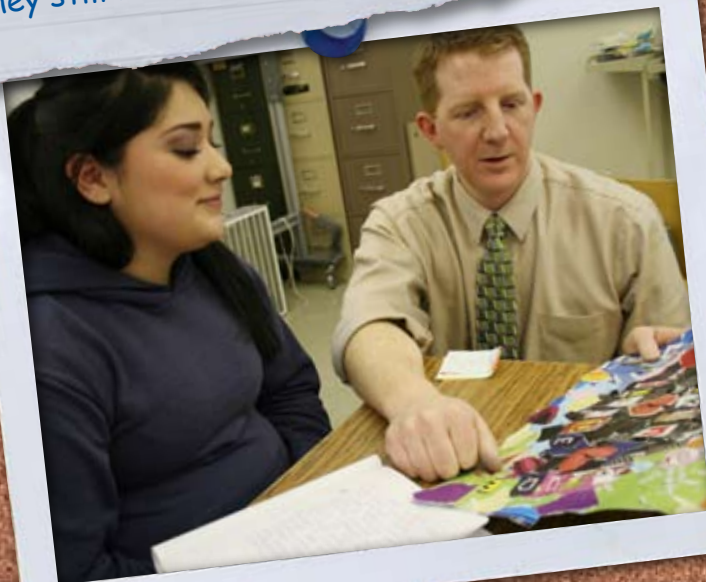
**MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
MATT SHAW'S CLASS:**



COMMENTS FROM MATT...

I love working with freshmen because they have so much energy. They are starting to become adults, but they're still kids. They manage to combine the best of both. You can start talking to them like adults, but they still have the energy of a kid.

We're doing a lot to connect with parents. We have the online grades system. We use e-mail messages and telephones to communicate with parents. There are numerous conference opportunities too.



When I first started teaching English, the emphasis was on literature and reading, and now it's on being able to express yourself in writing. This is a skill students will probably use more often as they go out into the world.